

CLAIMS

1. An air travel system characterised by the following steps:
 - (i) meeting with a passenger holding a flight reservation and ticket confirmation prior to a flight at a confirmed address of the passenger remote from the airport to attend to pre-flight procedures;
 - (ii) confirming at that meeting the identity of the passenger by reference to photographic identification (photo ID) evidence;
 - (iii) confirming details of the passenger's ticket confirmation;
 - (iv) pursuing all required document and security profiling procedures;
 - (v) collecting all items of luggage (other than hand luggage) from the passenger;
 - (vi) issuing a preliminary boarding pass;
 - (vii) providing the passenger with a receipt for items of luggage collected; and
 - (viii) transporting the luggage in a secure manner to the airport of departure for further checking prior to loading onto the aircraft on which the passenger is travelling.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the photo ID evidence comprises an official document which includes a photograph of the passenger.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the photo ID comprises a passport or driving licence.
4. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein prior to the meeting with a passenger, a check is conducted to establish that the address given by the passenger is a known address of the passenger.

5. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein information carrying tags are secured to the collected items of luggage, these tags comprising a standard interline departure control system tag and a passenger verification tag.
6. A system as claimed in claim 5 wherein the passenger verification tag includes the passenger's name, the passenger's signature and details of the flight on which the passenger is travelling.
7. A system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the passenger verification tag also includes a tamper evident label matching the luggage items receipt given to the passenger.
8. An air travel system in which pre-flight check-in of passengers and luggage items are conducted at passenger confirmed addresses remote from the airport of departure, all relevant luggage items being collected during the course of pre-flight check-in and transported in secure vehicles to the airport of departure for security checks to be made, each passenger for whom luggage items are collected receiving a preliminary boarding pass including *inter alia* flight details, the preliminary boarding pass being exchanged with a confirmed boarding pass airside of the airport of departure.
9. An air travel system in which a representative of the system operator meets with flight passengers at locations remote from the airport of departure to complete *inter alia* identity and security checks and to collect all items of luggage other than hand luggage for secure transportation by the system operator to the airport of departure each item of luggage being tagged to show *inter alia* the identity of the passenger and the passenger being provided with a preliminary boarding pass which includes *inter alia* personal details of the passenger and which is exchanged airside at the airport of departure with a confirmed boarding pass.

10. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a passenger's items of luggage are collected from the airport of destination by an operative and taken to an agreed address for checking and hand-over to the passenger.
11. An air travel system substantially as herein described.